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WINTER 1960

home safety review

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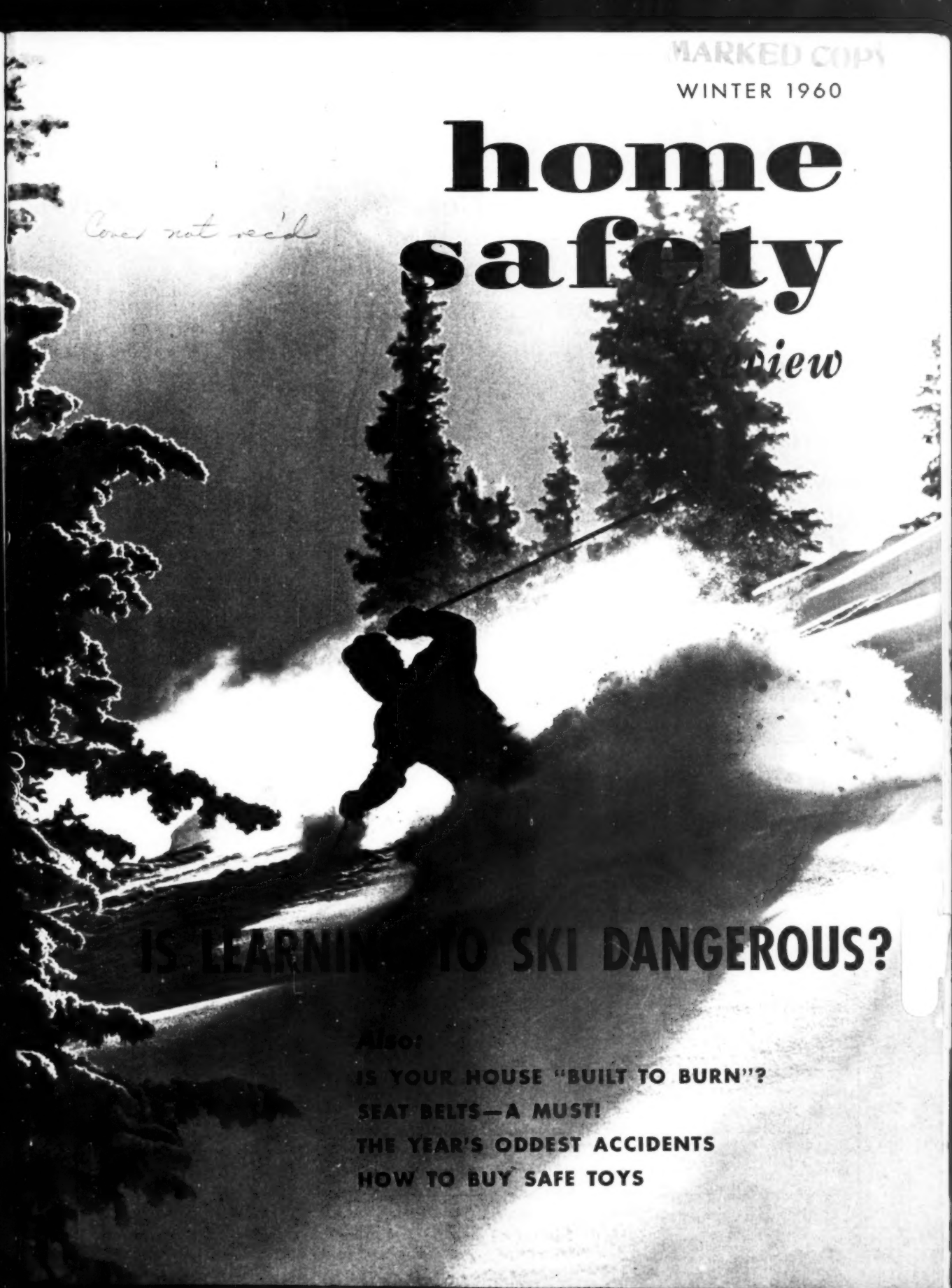

IS LEARNING TO SKI DANGEROUS?

Also:

IS YOUR HOUSE "BUILT TO BURN"?

SEAT BELTS—A MUST!

THE YEAR'S ODDEST ACCIDENTS

HOW TO BUY SAFE TOYS

home safety Review

WINTER 1960

Published by the NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

for home safety program planners

Vol. 19 No. 4

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Editor
Jean Carper

Associate Editor
Cynthia Browne

Advisory Board

Philip Dykstra
Manager, Home Safety Department

Doris E. Mersdorf
Home Safety Consultant

Gordon O'Neill
Home Safety Engineer

Hugh McCahey
Home Safety Consultant

Home Safety Conference

NSC Vice President for Homes:
George M. Wheatley, M.D.

Conference Chairman:
Howard Ennes

Vice Chairman:
Eugene Lehr

Staff Secretary:
Philip Dykstra

NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL
Chartered by the Congress of the United States
Home Office: 425 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 11, Ill.

San Francisco Office: 703 Market St., San Francisco 3, Calif.

New York Offices:
Field Service & General Information, 60 E. 42nd St., New York 17, N. Y.

Public Service Fund, 639-40 Chrysler Bldg., New York 17, N. Y.

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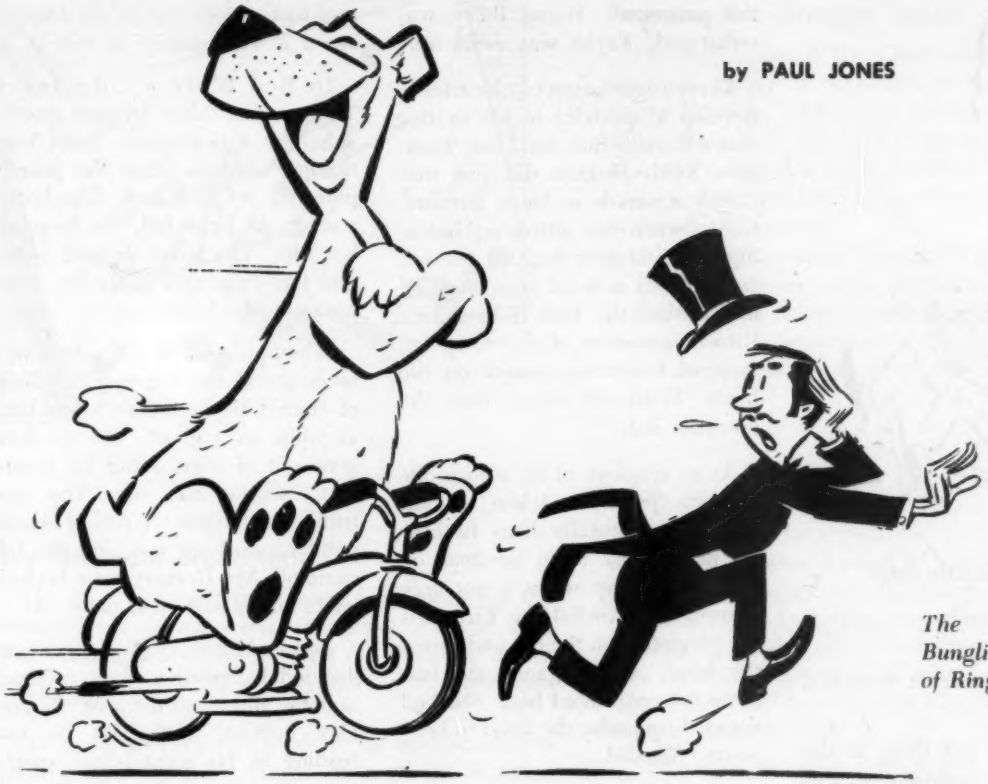
by PAUL JONES



The Bungling Bruin of Ringling Bros.

the year's ODDEST accidents

SO THE big news of the year was the presidential election?

Or maybe the space race? Or Cuba? Or the Congo?

Well, not necessarily.

At least not to Walter Klauser. Nor to Robert Coon. Nor to Richard Siewertsen. Nor to Marie Rarrick or Richard Taylor.

For please be informed, friends, that—

Mr. Klauser was run down by a bear on a motorcycle.

Mr. Coon found a 60-foot boxcar in his basement.

Mr. Siewertsen was run over by a house.

Marie Rarrick's car was smacked by a moving tree.

And Mr. Taylor reached up and caught a baby flying through space as neatly as Mickey Mantle would reach up and catch a fly ball.

See now why the election and those other top stories had to share the headlines?

And the oddities listed above were only a few of the weird and wacky wonders uncovered by the National Safety Council in its annual roundup of accidental absurdities.

The dizzy details:

The Case of the Bumptious Bear occurred in Miami Beach, Fla., where a big furry showoff was grandly riding a motorcycle around a ring in the Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey circus. Giddy with pride, he lost control, veered into trainer Walter Klauser, sent him to the hospital with leg injuries. The bungling bruin barely managed to retain his driver's license.

It may be possible that someone reading this has never gone to his place of business in the morning and found a nice big 60-foot boxcar reposing in the basement. For him, Robert Coon, of Mason, Mich., has this tip: "You'll be surprised!" The boxcar that greeted Mr. Coon was one of 22 derailed in the heart

A Mickey-Mantle catch

of Mason. The other 21 were less presumptuous.

Practically the last thing in the world Richard Siewertsen, of Detroit, had planned to do one day last June was to be run over by a house. But he was. Riding atop the house as it was being moved down the street, Dick hopped off, tried to jump back on, missed—and the house ran over his foot. He is now a great believer in home safety.

When Marie Rarrick reported dutifully to Toledo, Ohio police that a tree had swerved around a corner and rammed her car, the officers were understandably skeptical until she explained that the tree was on a city truck. Then they got down to the roots of the case.

As Richard Taylor strolled back to his office from lunch in Seattle one day last April, he heard a baby cry and looked up to see 16-month-old Richard Hudson come sailing out of a third-story window. Taylor did what came naturally. He dashed over and caught the child just before the plunging boy hit the pavement. Young Ricky was unharmed. Taylor was shook up.

Every eager baton twirler tries to develop a specialty in his routine that will make him stand out. Teenager Keith Hughes did just that during a parade in Santa Barbara, Calif., when his glistening baton, flipped exultantly high in the air, encountered a wind gust, took off and conked the Hon. Edmund G. Brown, governor of the sovereign state of California, smack on the head. Keith felt worse than the governor did.

As an employe of an automobile concern, Jerry McMahon, of San Francisco, naturally likes to hear his motor purr when he steps on the starter. But when it not only purred, but yowled, he turned it off, jumped from the car and raised the hood. An indignant and battered cat confronted him. She had crawled up under the hood to keep warm. She did.

In September last year Tony Atencio, of Englewood, Colo., broke his jaw playing high school football. In December he broke it again playing basketball. In May he broke it again playing baseball. Anyone for chess?

Patrolman Francis P. Sheehan, of the Lockport, N. Y., police force, slipped on a pencil at the head of the stairs, cascaded all the way down, and was taken to the Lockport Memorial Hospital with back injuries. The pencil that threw him was a souvenir—from the Lockport Memorial Hospital.

In the Harbor Inn restaurant in New York City a patron put a nickel in the juke box to hear "There'll Be a Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight." There was. The juke box caught fire.

In Fort Worth, Tex., A. C. Reid, Jr., treated for a bump on the head, explained he had been waiting for an elevator in an office building and had opened the safety door to see if it was coming. It was.

In Red Bluff, Calif., Janet Thomas was shot by her horse, aided by a porcupine. Janet was riding the horse when the porcupine fell out of a tree. The horse reared. As Janet fell, she dropped her rifle. The horse stepped on it, and Janet was shot in the leg. She now uses the family car.

When police of Port Credit, Ont., investigated the highway accident of Harold Herbert, they found him as white as a ghost. His car had gone out of control and hit a culvert, tossing him out. The car trunk burst open. A can of white paint came flying out, and the lid came off. Mr. Herbert got a broken ankle and a real good paint job.

And in Albany, N. Y., John Frain decided to spend a quiet evening at home and avoid the heavy Labor Day holiday traffic. As he sat reading in his second-floor apartment, the floor collapsed. He fell to the first floor, broke a leg. Sometimes you just can't win!

Sure, there was a national election in 1960, and a lot of other big news.

But honestly, now, don't you think the items you have just read were a little newsy, too?●

Paul Jones is director of special projects, National Safety Council.

Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight

Try the cool treatment

The best treatment for a burn is to submerge the burned area in ice water and leave it there until pain ceases, according to Alex G. Shulman, a Los Angeles doctor. If this is impossible, apply wet towels soaked in ice water.

Ice water therapy was used by the ancients, but is ignored by modern physicians, reported Dr. Shulman recently in an article in the Journal of the American Medical Association. He "rediscovered" the method when he spilled boiling grease on his hand and instinctively plunged it into a tub of cold water. The pain disappeared immediately. Since then he has studied the use of ice water in 150 cases of all degrees of burns, chemical and electrical as well as thermal. In each instance, ice water relieved pain, prevented blistering and hastened healing, he says.

• • •

Are you flying for a shock?

Warning to flyers of model airplanes: The plastic or fiber glass handle on the end of your line will not protect you from shock, despite what it says on the carton. Read the small print and you will find "Shock proof *up to 200 volts.*" This means nothing if the metal lead wire comes down across a 6600 volt line. Already two boys in their 20's have been killed by misinterpreting this advertising, reported William A. Dennis, of the South-Central Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc., Lancaster, Ohio. "The victims should have known better than to fly their airplanes near the power lines . . . but I believe the words 'shock-proof' on the handle or carton gave them the incentive to take the chance," he said.

Beware the danger hours

The first hours of the Christmas holidays will be the most dangerous for motorists, warns the National Safety Council. They point out that a special study of last Fourth of July fatal accidents showed the first 12 hours averaged 6 traffic deaths an hour. More than half the fatal crashes happened in the first 30 hours of the 78 hour period.

Other facts the study revealed were: (1) one-third of the drivers were under 25 years of age; (2) three out of five fatal crashes involved one car which ran off the road, hit a pedestrian or hit a fixed object; (3) not a single person who died wore a seat belt.

• • •

Look for the label

You will soon be able to tell by a household product's label whether or not it contains poisonous ingredients. Manufacturers must now list such ingredients along with a warning, according to a new federal labeling law. Previously, consumers were unaware of a product's hazards, because it bore no danger sign. (See "New Law for Old Hazards," *Home Safety Review*, summer, 1960.)

"This is a law we've been hoping to see for years. Mothers will now know which products to keep out of children's reach," commented Phil Dykstra, head of the National Safety Council's home safety department. He urges everyone to read the labels of all products brought into the home, and to store all potentially poisonous ones in a child-proof cabinet.

• • •

New color for hunters

What is the safest color clothing for hunters of the white-tailed deer? Red, the traditional danger-color? Or yellow, recently hailed in hunting circles as more visible? Neither. Fluorescent orange is best—at least in Massachusetts—says a research team who has conducted tests using soldiers and dummies wearing vests of various colors.

Red showed up as a poor protecter of hunters because it can't be seen at dawn and dusk and can't be distinguished by color blind hunters. Yellow is okay in good light, but appears as gray or white after the sun goes down. Daylight fluorescent orange stays visible after sun down much longer than other colors.

Massachusetts law requires hunters to wear red or yellow, but results of the tests are apt to persuade legislators to change their votes to orange.

These two cars crashed head on. The driver of the car on the left was wearing a seat belt and lived. The driver of the other car was not wearing a belt and was killed.

WHY SEAT BELTS AR

The case for belts is so strong you're actually *risking* your life if you don't wear them.

EARLY this year, a man we'll call Tom Willis and his wife of Phoenix, Ariz., drove from a side street into a thoroughfare without stopping. An oncoming car plowed into the front side of the Willis car, twirling it around the intersection. Mr. Willis was speared by the steering wheel but survived. Mrs. Willis flew into the windshield, then out the door and against the pavement where she skidded several feet. "The mutilation of this woman from being thrown out of the car was the worst I've ever seen," wrote the investigating policeman. At the bottom of the report he noted briefly, "Would have lived had she worn a seat belt."

This notation is not unusual. It is becoming standard procedure for many patrolman, who witness firsthand the value of seat belts. In fact, officers, investigating 71 fatal accidents in Maricopa County, Ariz., this year gave the opinion seat belts would have saved 26 victims or more than one-third.

During the last Fourth of July holiday, police from all over the country estimated nearly half of the 442 traffic accident victims would have survived if they had been wearing seat belts.

Thus, the evidence in favor of seat belts has become so overwhelming that a person who doesn't wear one is unnecessarily risking his life.

A conservative estimate by safety officials is that you are twice as likely to survive a crash if you wear belts. But Cornell University's Crash Injury researchers have come up with even more impressive odds: Belts increase your chances of surviving a crash by 8 times. This they concluded from a survey, comparing fates of motorists who wore and did not wear belts.

Here's what they say

As the use of seat belts increases, so do testimonials from persons indebted to belts. Typical are these, reported to the Indiana State Police:

"My Thunderbird rolled end over end—skidded on its top. Car less than 40 inches high. Sustained slight scalp wound, passenger only a bruised hand."

"We hit a railroad signal head on. Belt kept me in my seat. Passenger would have gone out the right

Tidewater Oil Co. photos

TS ARE A MUST

door which opened. Neither of us had a single injury."

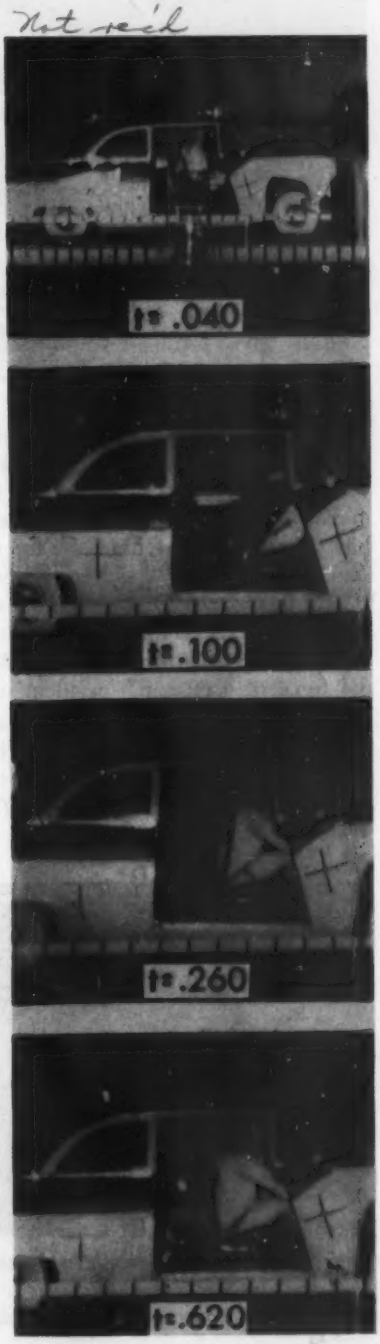
"Car struck large steel pole, tearing out all of right side of car. Continued out of control. Went through fence and struck a brick house. Only injury—a cut on arm from broken glass and slight bump on my head. Seat belt kept me from being thrown out and saved my life."

"Seat belt saved me"

The most dramatic case was that of a salesman returning from Benton Harbor, Mich., to South Bend, Ind. via U.S. 31 early one morning. "I was traveling about 70 to 75 m.p.h. .Approximately 3½ miles north of Niles, Mich., I fell asleep at the wheel. I went off the road for about 80 feet, down an 8 foot embankment, rolled over three times and while the car was upside down sheared off a telephone pole. Needless to say, the reason I'm able to write you this letter is that I was wearing seat belts."

Unfortunately, along with these happier stories, come some tragic ones in which the victim had belts

HERE'S WHAT HAPPENS IN A CRASH



Slow motion shots of auto hitting wall at 30 m.p.h. show how back seat dummy, not wearing belt, strikes front seat, then hurtles over. Front seat dummies are held safely in car by belts.

in the car but did not have them fastened. Such was the case of a woman in California whose car was rammed from behind and thrown up over the curb. She flew out the door and was run over by a bus.

In view of such evidence, that grows stronger every day, how can anyone fail to equip his car with seat belts? Why is the public seemingly apathetic? (Only about 4 per cent have belts.)

What happens in a crash?

Traffic safety officials give several answers. Listen to Don Lhotka, the National Safety Council's expert on seat belts:

"Few motorists have the least comprehension of the violent forces involved in a crash. They think of a mere 30 m.p.h. crash as relatively harmless in which they could easily restrain themselves with their hands. But this is impossible. To keep from going into the windshield in a quick stop (2 feet) 30 m.p.h. crash, a 150 pound man would have to put up a force of 2,250 pounds which would equal doing push ups with 15 people on top of him."

Cornell University researchers, using man-like dummies and remote controlled cars, have photographed what happens to occupants of a car in a mere 18 m.p.h. car. Here's the general pattern: The driver hits the steering post, then the top of the windshield. The person in the "death seat" flies into the windshield, then out the door. Occupants in the back are hurled over the front seat into the dash. Multiply this violence three times and you have some idea of the force of a 60 m.p.h accident on a highway.

The logic behind belts is amazingly simple, says Lhotka: (1) they keep you from being ejected (2) they keep you from flying against the interior of the car.

Contrary to an old-fashioned belief, you're safer remaining in a car than being thrown out. According to Cornell studies, a person is 5 times more likely to survive if he remains inside the car's hard shell protection. Otherwise he may fly full speed into a rock, concrete, pole or any other object in his way.

Another common, but misinformed objection to seat belts is that you could not escape should the car catch on fire or go under water. In the first place, such accidents are freaks, accounting for only one-half of one per cent of all accidents. And even in such an instance you are much better off with a belt because you'll stay conscious and able to flip open the belt and escape. Said B. J. Campbell, assistant to the director of Cornell's Crash Injury Research, recently: "Even if I *knew for certain* my car was going to catch on fire or go into a lake, I would still wear belts!"

37,000 were wrong

The most difficult attitude to combat is that 'It won't happen to me. So I don't need belts,' according to Lhotka. "Neither does a person think his child will get polio," he says, "but he might. That's why he gets a shot of vaccine. That's the way some people think of belts—as a precaution, just in case.

"And the argument that it happens to the 'other guy' is foolish. Thirty-seven thousand people thought that last year and they're all dead—killed on our roadways. And 37,000 more are expected to die that way this year. But, it's a good chance that at least 12,000 of these could live if they wear belts."

One of those victims might be you, your wife, your child, your brother, sister, parents. Isn't that good enough reason why seat belts are a must for your car?●

Mo 852 wpo

Woman driver of this slightly damaged car had seat belt, but did not have it fastened. She was thrown from car into path of another vehicle.

Mo 852 tec

In test of 45 m.p.h. crash, front seat dummies without belts were thrown from car. "Driver," caught in door, was dragged by spinning car.

Ho 751 A

In an emergency

DON'T TRUST YOUR IMPULSES

Your first reaction is invariably deadly, say experts. They advise you to think first, act later.

A TEENAGE boy made a split-second, heroic dive to rescue a girl thrown from water skis. He drowned; she swam easily to shore.

A woman, awakened by the smell of smoke, took the most normal action. She flung open the bedroom door and was roasted alive in the hall.

A motorist who saw a woman in distress beside her snow-bound auto decided to be a good Samaritan. He slammed on the brakes, skidded and rammed her car broadside. She was injured; he died.

Spur-of-the-moment action killed these victims. Each would probably be alive today had he repressed his impulse to act until he could decide on a sensible course.

Don't dive after victim

The would-be lifesaver could have thrown a life jacket the boat was carrying. Warns the Red Cross: Don't dive after a floundering swimmer. Throw a buoy, rubber tire, hunk of wood, beach ball —anything that will float. A struggling swimmer might pull you down, too.

The woman could have escaped through a window and onto a roof. But she violated firefighters' number one rule: Never open a door before testing it for heat. If the panel or knob is warm, don't open the door; flames or suffocating smoke await on the other side.

The motorist also did the worst thing possible by locking his brakes to stop on an icy road. What should he have done? According to winter driving experts who conduct tests on Wisconsin's ice-covered lakes: pumped the brakes lightly. On-and-off braking produces small skids, alternating with off-brake moments when you can control the car's direction.

Files of the National Safety Council are full of such accident

cases that point up one truth: In an emergency you can't trust your impulses to save you.

Some incidents are so bizarre that had the victim hesitated only a few seconds he would have been horrified by his first reaction. Consider the man who doused a wood fire with a panful of gasoline. Or the mother who, seeking an antidote for poison, poured a glassful of boric acid solution down her child's throat.

"Most persons facing a crisis develop the uncanny ability to do exactly the wrong thing," remarked an NSC official. "They follow blind instinct that demands speedy action, no matter what the consequences. Such impulsive action may seem normal, sometimes heroic, but it's also deadly." He pointed out that to save yourself you often must contradict normal inclinations.

How *not* to survive

Take for example, a driver whose car plunges into a lake. His survival instinct tells him to escape from the car immediately. Yet, the situation calls for the opposite course of action. He should sit there calmly—sometimes for as long as 15 minutes—until the car floods enough to equalize inside and outside pressures. Then he can take a deep breath from the ribbon of air that usually remains in a submerged car, open the door and float easily to the surface.

A struggling swimmer, too, must repress instinct—the urge to keep his head constantly above water. Since the head weighs about 15 pounds, such efforts lead to exhaustion and drowning. He should relax, let his head go under and periodically surface for air. Persons using this "drownproof" method, developed by Coach Fred Lanoue of Georgia Tech, have stayed afloat for 8 hours in high waves.

Can you figure out what this polite young man did wrong? He was walking behind an elderly

What would you do IF-?

HOW well you handle an emergency often determines life or death. Imagine you were faced with these situations. Would you know what to do?

You're driving along a highway at 60 m.p.h. when an approaching car pulls out to pass, misjudges the distance, can't make it and comes speeding straight toward you.

Answer: In this trap, your only out is to avoid a head-on crash—the most deadly of traffic accidents. Apply your brakes gradually—not abruptly or you'll lose control—and drive off the right side of the road. Sure, you may hit something, but with much less force. One man, facing this situation, went off the road, completely through a billboard and into a tree—and came out alive. "Never suffer a head-on collision if you can possibly avoid it," say experts.

Your high-school son, experimenting in his basement chemistry lab, squirts sulphuric acid in his eye.

Answer: To prevent blindness, concentrate on two things—getting a doctor and washing out the acid. Make the boy lie down, and pour cupful after cupful of water into the inner corner of the eye. Then cover the eye with a sterile gauze pad.

A do-it-yourself neighbor, putting up a TV antenna, lets it fall across a live wire. He collapses with the "hot" antenna still in his hands.

Answer: Don't touch him, because he's part of an electrical circuit that will give you a jolt. Knock the antenna from his hands by using a tree limb, dry, unpainted stick of wood or a dry, clean rope. Then start artificial respiration immediately. A shock stops a person's breathing, but if the shock is not too severe, resuscitation may revive him.

A youngster rushes up to your house screaming his playmate has fallen through the ice of a nearby lake.

Answer: Don't leave the house without grabbing a long pole, even a broom, which you can extend to the victim. To try to pull him out with your hands is sheer folly; you'd break through, too. Walk as far on the ice as you can, testing each step. Then lie on your belly, inching forward until the boy can grip the pole. Ease him forward slowly, breaking ice if necessary, until he reaches a firm spot. Then help him out when you can do so without breaking through.●

woman when she took a nasty tumble on the ice. He hastily helped her up, hailed a cab and took her to a doctor. His was a gentlemanly act but it turned a minor injury into a serious one. A broken rib punctured her lung.

Best treatment for a person who has fallen is to let him lie, make him comfortable as possible and send for medical aid. Unnecessary lifting can aggravate bone fractures and cause serious complications.

Deadly remedy

Here is the case of some men who did exactly the right thing—almost. After one of their hunting companions was bitten by a rattlesnake, they made him lie quietly, cut an X on his leg and tried to suck out venom while another man went for a doctor. Then one hunter decided to give the victim a slug of whiskey. He died. No one had stopped to realize alcohol, which speeds up blood circulation, is a dangerous remedy for snakebite.

Then there was the picnicking family who, at the first rumble of a thunderstorm, dashed for shelter under the nearest oak tree. A normal reaction? Yes, but the mother and three children were electrocuted by a lightning bolt. They forgot that a lone tree is lightning's favorite target.

Unfortunately, many a man in a crisis transfers his demand for fast action to an automobile. If you're ever tempted, remember the man whose young son was slightly injured in a minor traffic accident. The father piled the boy in the back seat and took off for the hospital at high speed—too fast to avoid a car crawling through an intersection. The boy was hurled to the pavement and killed.

All of which proves: In an emergency, think first, act later. Follow your impulses and they are likely to kill you.●

Readers Ask

Readers' questions answered by PHILIP DYKSTRA
Manager, Home Safety Department

I recently heard you shouldn't apply snow or rub the frozen part of a frostbite victim. That's contrary to what I was taught in school. Which is correct?

The snow treatment is no longer approved because it damages tissues. The Red Cross now recommends immersing the frozen part in warm water and keeping the victim warm by covering him with blankets. But do not apply a hot water bottle or heating pad.

A couple weeks ago a small fire broke out in my basement. I put it out myself. My neighbor said I should have called the fire department. Was that necessary since the fire was so small?

Always call your fire department when a fire breaks out, because putting out a fire is only half the job. *Keeping it out* requires the skill and knowledge of your firemen.

To illustrate: A California father who discovered a fire in his children's bedroom put it out and went back to bed. Later he smelled smoke, investigated and found the bedroom in flames. Five children burned up. He had dampened the fire, but not extinguished it.

A friend of mine who is a nurse told me my 3-year-old boy was too young to play with balloons. I've never heard anything like this. Are balloons unsafe?

Although few persons realize it, a young child may inhale a balloon into his windpipe and choke. Several youngsters have died this way. It would seem unrealistic to forbid the use of balloons, but parents should certainly not allow a young child to run around with a deflated balloon in his mouth, any more than they would let him run with scissors.

What is the universal antidote for poison?

The universal antidote is a subject of controversy. Some doctors believe it is effective in an emergency. But the American Medical Association objects to it because it is not really "universal." It would help only in cases of acid or alkali poisoning.

It is made up of two parts pulverized charcoal (burned toast), one part magnesium oxide (milk of magnesia), one part tannic acid (strong tea) mixed with half a glass of water. Drug stores sell a commercial brand which comes in a small packet, ready to mix with water. The important thing to remember in case of poisoning—even if you do administer the universal antidote is call your doctor immediately.

Is it safe to throw empty pressurized cans into the furnace?

Pressure or aerosol cans—the kind that contain hair spray, etc. —may explode if put in fire. To prevent this, put the empty can into a basin of water and release all the pressure by pressing the nozzle. Then, to double check the pressure, keep the can underwater and puncture it with a can opener. The container can then safely be thrown into the fire.●

by CYNTHIA BROWNE

SO- you're learning t*S*

Then behold these tips guaranteed to take the danger out of skiing.

Sp 66 wts

Don't imitate Olympic skiers by trying steep, difficult courses. Overconfidence is beginner's nemesis.

"AW I can do that," boasted a 20-year-old novice at a Wisconsin ski lodge last winter, as he thrust his skis into the snow and sailed down the hill. Half way down, he ran into a sitzmark (treacherous hole in the snow), panicked, lost control and tumbled down the hill.

Moments later, a patrol carted Mr. I-Can-Do-It off to the medical center to treat his broken leg.

Overconfidence is the villain behind every one of the 18,500 ski injuries that happen each year, according to the National Ski Patrol System. Beginners, especially, overestimate their abilities and rack up nearly half of all ski accidents.

Most accidents result in sprains and fractures and usually involve the ankle, leg and knee. One injury, a fracture of the lower end of the fibula (bone that attaches to the ankle), is so common among beginners it is known as the "ski fracture."

A beginner's gravest mistake is not taking lessons. Professionals constantly emphasize that skiing is not

Sp 66 wts

Chicago Sun-Times photo

Experts advise beginners to take lessons. Here, John Verrey does a "galandesprung" at his salt ski school.

Sp 66 wts

t SKI!

Don't wear loose clothing on a rope tow—it twists!

something you learn by reading "Ten Easy Ways to Ski!" Almost 50 per cent of those injured never had a lesson. If a skier has even six lessons his chances of accident go way down. A skier should take lessons during his entire life on skis, says the Ski Patrol. "Even the experts go back frequently for more lessons," they say.

Some learn on salt

A beginner can get lessons not only at ski resorts, but at "dryland" ski schools affiliated with ski clubs and YMCA's. Classes stress the fundamentals of walking, climbing, ski positions, getting up and turning. Thus, the novice can learn and practice skiing right in his own living room before ski season begins.

Using 17,000 pounds of salt for snow, John Verrey has taught thousands of Chicagoans safe skiing fundamentals at his indoor school.

The first thing Verrey, a champion skier from France, tells his students is how to choose safe ski equipment. "Ski poles should reach just little below your armpits," he says. "Poles that are too long are clumsy to handle, while those too short may jab you if you fall."

Not real

Fall immediately, rather than ski out of control like this young lady who ran into a brush pile.

He insists that your boot be tight on the ski and 100% tight in the ankle so your heel cannot move up and down. This provides proper control. The sole of the boot should be stiff enough to resist the buckling pull of bindings. The Ski Patrol attributes 139 injuries in 1958 to improperly fitted ski boots.

Ill-fitting skis are also high on the list of accident causes. Proper ski length, which results in better control, can be determined only by an expert. The length depends mostly upon your height and weight.

Equipment must fit you

Other safety items high on Verrey's list are:

The release binding. This, considered by some pros as the most important safety element in equipment, releases your foot when you fall, preventing the skis from twisting your legs. Bindings must be adjusted especially for you by an expert.

A "safety" strap. This piece of leather or rubber or string loosely connects the boot to the ski, preventing your ski from breaking loose and plowing through someone. The Ski Patrol recommends the Arlberg-type strap because it keeps the ski so close to the fallen skier that it can't fly back and hit him.

Shatterproof goggles or sunglasses. These are essential to prevent snowblindness. Snowblindness, like sunburn, isn't noticed until it's too late, and is *very* painful and dangerous.

"Use only equipment that fits *you* properly," advises Verrey. "Before buying equipment, consult a certified ski instructor and buy from an honest dealer. Rented or borrowed equipment is usually unsatisfactory, for some ski dealers do not make sure it fits properly."

(continued next page)

How to fall and get up is a technique Verrey considers very important for beginners. "Try to fall to the side because you won't hit your skis and it's easier to get up," he tells them. A common accident cause among beginners, he says, is that they try to land on one knee when falling. This is an almost sure-fire way to get a leg injury.

"Dig the sharp ends of the poles into the salt and push yourself up," he explains. "The poles, used for support, should be as close to your body as possible. If you fall backwards, try to lift your feet and skis up in the air so your legs won't get twisted."

Get in condition now

Verrey also advises his students to get in condition before skiing. Office workers, housewives and others whose daily routine does not include leg exercise are more accident prone. Prior to ski season, a skier can strengthen muscles by climbing stairs, running, hiking, doing sit ups, push ups, deep knee bends and other exercises. A week end skier should do these exercises during the week.

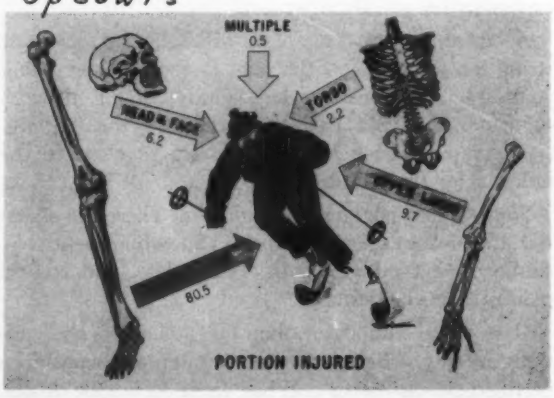
Experts agree the two most important precautions a beginning skier should remember are (1) take lessons, (2) know your abilities and never ski beyond them.

The pros also offer these tips to the novice skier:

• Wax your skis. Wax helps you to stop smoothly. Unwaxed skis make you jerk to a stop and fall.

• Fill your sitzmarks (the dent you make in the snow when you fall or slide). If any part of you other than your skis touches the snow, you make a sitzmark. These holes are extremely dangerous to all skiers.

Spaces



The legs are involved in 80.5 per cent of the ski injuries, upper limbs in 9.7, according to Ski Patrol statistics.

• Control your skis at all times. When wearing skis, keep your safety strap attached to your boot and binding. When carrying skis, keep them in front of you with the tips pointing straight to the sky. You may hit someone if you sling them over your shoulder. While skiing, remember *always* keep the tips of your ski poles pointed behind you, so you won't spear anyone.

• Never ski when you're the least tired and don't skip lunch. The Ski Patrol found that 43.4 per cent of the accidents in 1958 happened between 2 and 4 p.m. By this time, skiers are tired and not alert to changing snow conditions. Beginners should quit for the day by mid-afternoon.

In addition to eating breakfast and lunch, snack on sugar cubes, hard candies and dried fruits during the day to keep your energy level high.

• Never stop or rest in the middle of a ski trail. Overconfident skiers think others will stop or ski around them; many have found this is not always the case.

• Use the buddy system in skiing—ski with someone.

More tips to the novice

• Until you become an expert, ski only on packed snow and avoid soft snow, slushy snow, ice, deep powder and breakable crust. If you find yourself sailing off the packed snow, fall. It's better to fall deliberately than to be jerked off your feet by the change of snow.

• Use the tow rope *after* you've been fully instructed on how to use it. Skiers approaching a tow or lift should stop a reasonable distance from a line of skiers waiting for the tow. Show-offs who try to stop right at the line often have crash landings.

Persons who wear loose clothing or women with long hair may get tangled on the tow rope and dragged on to injury. If you fall while using the rope tow, let go and roll to one side. Get out of the way of others. Careless use of the tow rope not only endangers you, but other skiers.

• Learn all the jargon and rules of ski courtesy *before* you ski. The skier coming down the slope has the right of way. Don't ski out in front of him.

• If a fallen skier needs first aid, send someone to get the patrol. Do nothing more than keep the victim warm unless you are a qualified first aider.●

Kids gobble up these tablets like candy. Only 10 can be poisonous.

CANDY-ASPIRIN

Poison to youngsters

CANDY-FLAVORED acetylsalicylic acid, commonly known as baby aspirin, poisons more children each year than any other single item. Studies of aspirin poisonings (which number well over 10,000 each year) consistently label flavored aspirin, not white adult aspirin, as the main culprit. According to a special report by the American Medical Association, aspirin poisoning has grown by "leaps and bounds" since 1948 when flavored baby aspirin went on the market as a non prescription drug.

Part of the reason for the surge in poisonings, believes Dr. Harold Jacobziner, assistant commissioner, Maternal and Child Health Services, New York City Health Department, is that parents fail to think of a tiny aspirin tablet (1¼ grains, one-fourth the strength of an adult aspirin) as a drug, which in large doses is capable of inflicting death in a child. Yet, he warns, 10 tablets can be harmful and more than 30 extremely serious, even deadly, if the child's physical resistance is low.

The pain-killing and toxic ingredient of aspirin is salicylic acid, synthetically produced today, but also found in willow and birch trees, legumes, and some grasses. It is probably the oldest drug commonly used today, having been prescribed by Hippocrates in the 4th century B.C.. But because of its extreme toxicity, salicylic acid dropped into oblivion for hundreds of years, then in 1899 emerged in the form of a safe compound, thanks to a young German chemist working for Friedrich Bayer & Co. He "neutralized" the acid, but not so much as to render it completely harmless. Hence, in large quantities it is still dangerous.

Kids love "candy"

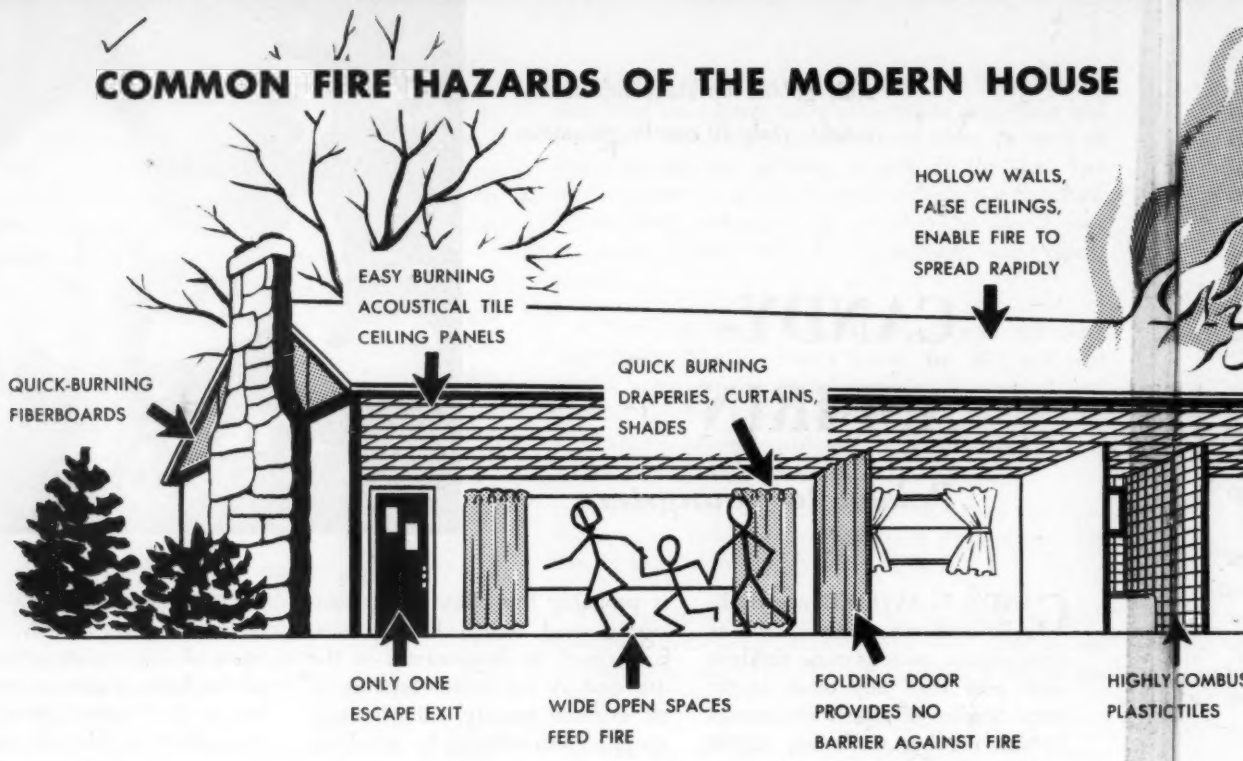
Flavored aspirin poisonings, says Dr. Jacobziner, usually follow a typical pattern. He cites this case as an example: A three-year-old boy, whose mother had told him baby aspirin was candy, awoke early, raided the medicine cabinet and ate 30 pieces of "candy." His mother later discovered the empty bottle but was not much concerned because the tablets bore no warnings, and she regarded aspirin as completely safe. What's more, the boy looked normal.

But a couple of hours later the child began sweating profusely, complained of a stomach ache and vomited. Still his temperature was normal, so his mother put him to bed. For a while he seemed better, but dry and lethargic. Then he began breathing heavily. With the onset of this classic symptom, the mother became alarmed and rushed him to the hospital where he died. Everything in this case was typical except the boy's death, commented Dr. Jacobziner. Forty-five grains, he said, would not be expected to be lethal, but the boy had been previously ill, aggravating the effect of the poison.

The advisability of buying candy aspirin is still debated among doctors. Some feel the ease of getting a child to take candy aspirin far outweighs possible danger. Others think the risk is not worth it. Regardless, it looks as if candy aspirin is here to stay; its popularity has skyrocketed and now accounts for 17 per cent of all aspirin sales.

Aspirin manufacturers, realizing the hazard, have outfitted candy aspirin bottles with special clamp-on plastic caps, hard for a child to remove, but, of course, not "foolproof" since a child could unsnap the cap with his teeth or break the bottle.

Consequently, the only solution lies with parents, according to medical experts. Their advice: (1) *Never* tell your child aspirin is candy. (2) Store aspirin where children can't get to it—in a locked cabinet.●


COMMON FIRE HAZARDS OF THE MODERN HOUSE
HOLLOW WALLS, FALSE CEILINGS, ENABLE FIRE TO SPREAD RAPIDLY
EASY BURNING ACOUSTICAL TILE CEILING PANELS
QUICK-BURNING FIBERBOARDS
QUICK BURNING DRAPERIES, CURTAINS, SHADES
ONLY ONE ESCAPE EXIT
WIDE OPEN SPACES FEED FIRE
FOLDING DOOR PROVIDES NO BARRIER AGAINST FIRE
HIGHLY COMBUS
PLASTIC TILES

IS YOUR HOUSE "BUILT TO B

ONE morning I walked past a three-story and basement brownstone house in Brooklyn, N. Y. where 11 people had died in a midnight fire. No casual passerby could have realized what a tragedy had happened there just a few hours before, for firemen had blacked out the blaze so fast that the ground-floor grocery store was already open for business with no appreciable water damage.

In Jersey City, N. J., seven people perished in a frame dwelling, yet the only external evidence of fire there were some broken windows on the top floor; even the wooden window frames were not charred. And the records are loaded with cases of multiple fire deaths in homes where the property damage was relatively small.

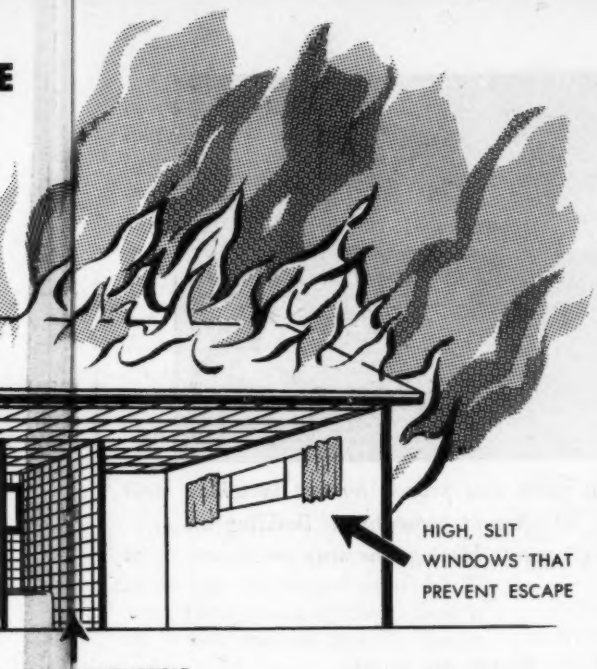
Clearly, a house doesn't have to burn to the ground in order to kill a family. Indeed, firemen well know that even if a dwelling is eventually consumed, the victims generally died in the first few minutes when the infant outbreak first flashed into maturity. Many of these deaths are due to inhalation of toxic combustion gases from quick-burning household materials.

The defense against this peril is well known but too often neglected. It is, however, carried to the *nth* degree in all ships of American registry built since the *Morro Castle* disaster of 1934. It is based on the principle of "starving a fire to death" in its incipiency instead of trying to beat it to death after it has gained full fury. The approach is two-fold:

1. Avoid fast-burning household materials, and drafts that might feed a fire.

2. Assure early discovery by making the incipient outbreak report itself automatically.

Foremost among the fire hazards in the typical dwelling is the excessive volume of light-weight or highly combustible fuels in the form of drapes, curtains, shades, fiberboards, and certain of the newer plastic tiles, plywoods and veneers. Unless flame-proofed or



by PAUL KEARNEY

Highly combustible building materials and furnishings would send a fire sweeping through your house. Here's how to protect yourself.

'O BURN?"

otherwise rendered harmless, these are the elements which are so readily touched off by the trifling fire in the wastebasket; the grease flare-up in the kitchen; the overheated furnace; the short-circuit behind the wallboard.

Second, the average home is a wide-open area through which the initial flash fire can race unimpeded to new fuels, creating its own draft as it builds up momentum. Houses with hollow walls or false ceilings that are inadequately fire-stopped present a similar situation once a blaze eats into these voids, or originates there from electrical causes or defective chimneys, heat pipes, etc.

Third, automatic protection—industry's most effective counter-attack on fire—is conspicuous by its absence in the home.

How to flame-proof

The householder's first step should be to eliminate or safeguard the more combustible elements of decoration, trim or finish. Thus, curtains and drapes can be of fiberglas, nylon, dynel or other new materials which will not support flame. These are now competitive with other materials commonly used for this purpose, and are equally attractive.

Or, approaching from another tack, conventional highly combustible materials can be flame-proofed —often by your local laundry or dry-cleaner. A solution for the temporary flameproofing of curtains, drapes, bedclothing, or even children's wear, often recommended by fire protection agencies for cotton and rayon fabrics, can be prepared by dissolving nine ounces of borax and four ounces of boric acid in a gallon of water. The material is dipped in and hung up to dry—but the treatment must be repeated after each laundering. This solution will not alter the color or appearance of the fabric.

The second vital factor in the lightning-like spread of fire is the interior finish of the house. "In the great majority of fires in buildings without automatic protection," said the National Fire Protection Association's *Handbook of Fire Protection*, "the regulation of interior finish is the first line of defense against the spread of fires originating in contents."

In recent years there has been an enormous increase in the use of fiberboards with combustible surfaces, in lieu of gypsum board, for dry wall construction. Notwith-

standing the fact that there are available fiberboards which have been factory treated with fire retardant chemicals, millions of square feet of the quick-burning kind are being used in the name of economy. Thus more and more homes are being "built to burn!"

For those wishing to correct such a glaring fault in an existing house, two methods are open. First – as yet unproved, however – is the spray application of certain clear chemicals which minimize surface combustibility without changing the colors.

The second approach is the use of a fire- and heat-retarding surface coating or paint which can render any interior surface "slow burning." At least 16 such paints in a variety of decorator colors, are currently listed by UL. Many are washable; most are effective on plywood and fiberboard as well as solid wood; all reduce flame-spread and prevent heat from penetrating through the coated surface.

Do it the Army way

It is also possible to obtain finished plywoods (some half-dozen are listed by UL), as well as solid woods, that have been impregnated with fire resistant chemicals. The armed forces buy millions of board feet of such materials. Impregnated wood was used in such large housing projects as Stuyvesant Town, Peter Cooper Village and Knickerbocker Village, in New York City, at a cost increase of only about two or three per cent. A substantial footage of impregnated plywoods were used in Rockefeller Center.

Another important item that can be bought separately is the impregnated wood fire-door which will withstand temperatures of 1800 degrees for 90 minutes. Retaining the esthetic qualities of wood, these doors are ideal for such critical locations as the basement stairs (top or bottom); the house entrance to an attached garage; and, especially, the bedrooms. Today most doors are so flimsy that fire walks right through them in jig time. Yet here, again, the good fire retardant can perform yeoman service.

If all this seems to slight the advantages of the completely fire retardant house, this is because no building is any more "fireproof" than its contents. And since we are concerned here solely with life hazard rather than property damage, it is clear that furnishings, trim and decoration are the real threats in the home.

Tile that burns

Newest of these to become factors in fast traveling fires are certain plastic tiles with a very high combustibility, and certain acoustical tiles with bad flame-spread characteristics. The latter are thought to have played its part in the tragedy at Our Lady of Angels School, in Chicago, where waves of flame swept along the ceiling like combers on a beach. For acoustical tile, flameproofing sprays or surface coatings offer the only safeguard for existing installations.

Dramatic effect of fire retardant paint was proved by test in which these two Army barracks were set afire at same time. Building on left was coated with "flameproof" paint; blazing one was not.

Plastic tile puzzle

The plastic tile problem is more difficult, since nobody paints over these. And there's no simple way for the householder, before installation, to determine combustibility of either acoustical or plastic tiles, since holding a match flame to a small piece is no test. The intense heat of a gas flame applied to a large sample may give a very different result, for some of these materials burn three to five times faster than wood. Thus, many fire departments are reporting cases where kitchens or other rooms "went up like matchboxes" when plastic tiles were loosened by the heat, then ignited.

The only reliable buying guide for acoustical tiles and for ceiling panels advertised as consisting *chiefly* of fiberglas, hence assumed to be fire resistive, is a UL listing.

Modern home hazards

Sadly enough, these hazards of lightweight, highly combustible fuels have not only become more severe in most of our newer, ultra-modern homes, and the threat is magnified by such other common faults as:

• High, narrow windows—often blocked by tricky metal sashes defying removal—through which nobody will be able to escape in an emergency.

• The increasing popularity of the one-door house which provides a single exit.

• The growing use of folding or slatted interior doors—or no inside doors at all—converting the whole building into one unbroken fire area.

Only one door

Recently in Beach Haven, N. J., three people died in a one-story ranch type dwelling at around 5:30 a.m. The position of the bodies in the debris showed that the flames had cut off their escape through the solitary door. And they couldn't use the windows because they were modern 30 x 20 inch horizontal openings with the lower sill 5½ feet from the floor.

In a modern one-story home in Rockford, Ill., two parents were badly burned, and their 11-year-old daughter died. Paperboard wall sheathing in the living room greatly intensified the blaze originating in an overheated TV set—one of our newer fire breeders. In this case the mother got out through the flames, then tried to get the little girl out of her window by standing on a toy express wagon in the yard. But the window was so high the child couldn't make it.

Similarly, a family of four was wiped out in Middletown, Ohio, in a single-story dwelling of modern vintage. Gashes on the mother's hands and wrists gave mute evidence of her vain efforts to smash open a storm window which wouldn't yield.

In the past, firemen used to worry most about the sleepers on the top floor. But modern architects are fixing it so that those on the ground level are no better off! All of which leads to the second factor in making a home fire-safe: automatic detection which compels an incipient outbreak to *report its own presence.*

BEFORE YOU BUY

Before installing a fire alarm system consult your local fire department. They will tell you the right kind to buy, and steer you away from high-pressure fire alarm salesmen who have been quite successful in gyping some homeowners.

In industry, automatic protection is providing a 99.98 per cent fire immunity for billions of dollars worth of property and the lives within them; yet this most effective counter-attack on fire is conspicuous by its absence in the home. For the more vulnerable a house is to a fast-traveling blaze, the greater the need for *very early detection.* Indeed, in many modern homes there is no other hope if a fire starts in the night—as most fatal fires do.

Alarms for you

This lack is not due to any dearth of home fire alarms; there are dozens on the market, cheap, moderate or expensive. It is due to our sublime faith in the tenuous belief that "it can't happen here."

The accepted practice is to recommend only such systems as are listed by the Underwriters' Laboratories, or which meet the requirements of the National Fire Protection Association. While there are many elaborate systems bearing the UL label, most involve too much money for the average family budget. However, four "single station" types have a special appeal to the householder because they are economical (around $33 a unit); require no electrical connections; and can be installed with a screwdriver.

Listed for areas from 15 x 15 to 20 x 20 feet, three of these are horn-type units actuated by freon gas when a fusible link is melted by a temperature of about 136 degrees. The fourth and newest is a gong type actuated by a powerful spring similarly released. Although this temperature is only about half that of a slow oven into which the housewife puts her hand with impunity, it is a sure sign of impending trouble unless the condition is rectified. In any case, the occupants are pretty sure of a warning in time to escape if they do nothing else.

Sprinkler for $25

Another device of great merit for high-hazard areas in the home is an automatic "chemical sprinkler" which can be installed in the furnace room, garage or attic for around $25 a unit. (I have one over the kitchen range; another over the electric refrigerator, a leading cause of home electrical fires from overheated motors.) Especially when backed up by an automatic alarm system, this is an excellent safeguard, very popular with telephone companies, radio stations, in spray-painting booths and other locations where water is not desirable. Here, again, the rising heat from the incipient fire is sufficient to open a fusible link and release the chemical in an umbrella-like spray over a considerable area.

The sum and substance of this whole story of the fire-safe home is boiled down in the firemen's old adage that "the first five minutes are worth the next five hours at any blaze." This is an axiom we all should take to heart in a land where 1500 homes a day are destroyed by fire!

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Any Complaints Against S

If your child gets a dangerous toy for Christmas, do as others do: Notify the National Safety Council.

MOST of the toys Santa brings your child this year will be safely constructed. But some, concocted by quick-buck or unscrupulous firms, will be cheaply made and downright dangerous.

Metal edges may be razor sharp. Toy cars may collapse, revealing spiked axles. Eyes on stuffed animals may fall off in baby's mouth. Paint on toys may contain lead which if chewed can cause lead poisoning, a hideous disease that attacks kidneys and brain cells.

Concerned about toy hazards, safety leaders two years ago set up a Toy Safety Committee under the Home Department of the National Safety Council and invited everyone who knew of a toy accident to write in.

Letters blast "safe" toys

Response was amazing. Dozens of letters came from parents, aunts, grandfathers, doctors – all describing how children had been hurt, maimed or killed by "harmless" playthings. Termed most dangerous by the public were small detachable parts, such as wheels, bells and knobs that get stuck in a child's throat. Next were sharp metal edges, removable eyes on stuffed animals, plastic that shatters and rattles that break spilling tiny stones.

These letters were evidence needed by the Toy Manufacturers of the U.S.A., the industry's trade association. Its board of directors unanimously passed a resolution condemning the "unsafe practice of affixing eyes, noses, ears and spectacles and the like to dolls and stuffed toys in such a manner they are easily detachable."

According to David Aberman, attorney for the association and member of the Toy Safety Committee, safety standards for toys are the highest they've ever been. "No reputable toymaker would be

To 66

Small wheels, easy for baby to pull off and plop in her mouth are number one complaint of parents who report toy accidents to NSC.

SANTA CLAUS?

Dangerous eyes found on cheap toy.

Sharp wire protruding from rabbit's ear is kind of booby-trap parents can't see, but object to.

Two staff members of NSC examine dog which may be hazardous if child inserts batteries incorrectly.

caught dead using old-fashioned harpoon eyes, pronged like a fish-hook and just stuck in stuffed toys," he contends.

To show the increased safety-consciousness he cites this example: "One firm this year redesigned a pull toy by removing the ball at the end of the string and replacing it with instructions on how to tie a knot for the child to grasp. Now there's no danger of the child's pulling off and swallowing the ball."

Unfortunately, the association has no control over fly-by-night firms and import houses – the greatest violators of safe toy construction. The only recourse here is for the committee to point out the toy's hazard and ask the company to correct it. Some firms resent interference; others are cooperative. A president of one company, when informed the fumes of his bubble solution made children sick, hastily destroyed the stock and took a huge business loss, rather than "cause misery to even one child."

Often the committee does not wait until a toy has caused an accident, but investigates potentially dangerous toys.

Log cabin passes test

Recently, several persons notified the committee about a log cabin playhouse, advertised for a dollar and made of thin plastic, which they believed capable of suffocating a child. A member of the committee informally tested it, subjecting it to all kinds of situations involving children, and could find no cause for alarm. The material, although thin, was several times thicker than plastic film used in dry cleaning bags and would not stick to the face.

A California father was perplexed recently when a dry cell battery, inserted backwards in his son's train, exploded, just missing the boy's face and sending the metal core of the battery 12 feet across the room. Why, he asked, would a battery explode?

The committee put the question to a prominent battery manufacturer who stated positively that inserting one of a series of batteries backwards is a common hazard of such toys. The cell of the misplaced battery is subjected to a charging current that builds up

Toy Shopping Tips

HAND TO MOUTH—up to 2

Suggestions:

Sturdy rattles
Large soft colored balls
Washable squeak toys
Stuffed animals and dolls
Blocks with round corners
Push or pull toys

Beware:

Small toys that can be swallowed
Flammable toys
Lead or other poisonous paints
Removable parts that can be swallowed
Animals and dolls with detachable eyes
Sharp edges

EXPLORING AGE—2 to 3

Suggestions:

Sand box toys
Large peg boards
Tip-proof kiddie cars and tricycles
Low rocking horse
Bright picture books
Large crayons

Beware:

Sharp, rough edges
Small removable parts
Flammable toys
Marbles, beads, coins, that can be swallowed
Lead based or other poisonous paints

LET'S PRETEND—3 to 4

Suggestions:

Toy telephone
Doll with simple clothing
Doll buggy and furniture
Miniature garden tools
Trucks and tractors
Non electrical train
Drum
Building blocks

Beware:

Toys too heavy for child's strength
Electrical toys
Flammable toys and costumes
Toys that break or splinter
Sharp or cutting toys

CREATIVE URGE—4 to 6

Suggestions:

Blackboard, dustless chalk
Simple construction sets
Paints, clay
Small sports equipment
Paper dolls with blunt scissors
Housekeeping toys
Scooters

Beware:

Shooting toys that endanger eyes
Ill-balanced mobile toys—tricycles and wagons that will topple easily
Shooting rockets

BEGINNING OF DEXTERITY —6 to 8

Suggestions:

Carpenter tools
Construction sets
Sports equipment—skates, etc.
Electrical toys
Puzzles and games
Kits for playing store, bank, filling station
Dolls and accessories

Beware:

Electrical toys without Underwriters' Laboratories seal
Kites with conductible lines
Toys too big or complicated
Poorly made skates
Shooting toys

gases, which may cause an explosion. Best solution, said the manufacturer, would be polarized contacts, built in the toy, to prevent the circuit from being completed if the battery were inserted incorrectly. In the meantime, he warned parents to be sure children put in batteries correctly.

Why do shoppers put out good money for dangerous playthings? Parents claim some toys are booby-trapped, that hazards don't show up until the toy falls apart. Such was the case of an expensive refrigerator one mother bought. She carefully examined edges to be sure they were rolled, but several days later her little daughter pulled out a shelf and got a nasty gash. The hidden edge was cutting sharp.

How to inspect toys

On the other hand, Dr. Robert Frazier, chairman of the Toy Safety Committee says, "Many shoppers are so dazzled by a toy designer's ingenuity, they forget to notice if a toy is dangerous."

He urges Christmas shoppers to inspect toys and offers these suggestions: (1) Examine toys for rough, sharp edges. (2) If the toy is for a child 3 and under, be sure it doesn't have tiny removable parts. (3) Don't buy an electric toy unless it has the label of Underwriters' Laboratories (UL). This means it has been tested for fire and shock hazard. (4) Buy the right toy for the right age-group. (See suggestions elsewhere on page.) For example, a marble, okay for a 10-year-old is dynamite in the hands of a 2-year-old.

If, despite your precautions, a toy turns out to be a dud and hurts someone, don't take it lightly, urges Dr. Frazier. Write the Toy Safety Committee, National Safety Council, giving the manufacturer's name if possible. Who knows? If enough people complain about a product this year, Santa may do better next year.●

Sc 14c

Are You Your Brother's Keeper?

Christmas joy will not be shattered by an accident if you make your home safe for family and friends.

DEFINITELY, according to Old Testament scripture. And that responsibility toward others should prevail especially over the religious holidays.

Here are special precautions to keep your family and guests from becoming accident victims in your home during the Christmas season.

Falls—greatest danger

Because falls account for 45 per cent of home accident deaths, you must put forth a special effort to prevent them in your home.

- *Keep walks and steps free from ice and snow.*
- *Leave walks, pathways and doorways clear.* Displays of sleigh and reindeer or other decorations, whether on the front lawn or in the front room, should not be placed where they can obstruct foot traffic.
- *Don't obscure your view by carrying too many packages.*
- *Keep packages and other objects on easy-to-reach shelves or in drawers.* Momentarily storing packages "out of the way" on stairways may trip up someone using the stairs.
- *Give the children a toy box or bag to put their gifts in.* Toys scattered all over the house may send Grandma tumbling over a roller skate or new baseball.
- *Use a sturdy ladder.* Never use makeshifts such as a chair, two books and a box.
- *Never reach from a ladder.* If you can't put the star on top of the tree without reaching, get someone taller to do the job.

Special fire hazards

The holidays always increase the fire hazard potential in homes. Fires and burns and fire-associated accidents took the lives of 23 per cent of home fatality victims last year. During the Christmas season take these extra precautions:

- *Keep your Christmas tree in water.* It will stay greener longer and therefore more fireproof.
- *Never have any candles on or near the tree.* Candles must be far enough from pine branches, curtains and other flammable objects so there will be no chance of a fire.
- *Put candles and lights out when you leave the house even if you will be gone "just a minute."*
- *Use hurricane lamps over your candles.* This simple and effective safety measure is also an attractive decoration.
- *Keep all matches in hard-to-open containers out of the reach of children.*

(continued next page)

• *Check all electric cords on decorations and discard any that are frayed and worn before a short circuit develops.* If you buy any electric lighting sets, make sure they bear the UL (Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc.) label.

• *Use nonflammable material (metal, glass, asbestos, etc.) for Christmas decorations whenever possible.* When you must use combustible materials, be sure they are "flameproofed," particularly if they are to be placed near the tree.

• *Don't use electric lighting sets on metallic Christmas trees.* Use off-the-tree spot or flood lights instead. A voltage leakage from faulty tree lights or wiring on a metallic tree can result in a death dealing jolt or a severe burn if touched by someone under certain conditions.

Protect your child

Besides being fire hazards, decorations and trees hold other dangers for little ones. Children often chew on pretty ornaments, light bulbs or any other bright objects that look "good enough to eat." This could result in injury or death.

Because you as a parent are responsible not only for the safety of your own children, but of the children visiting in your home, make sure you:

• *Cover empty light bulb sockets on the tree and those used on other decorations on the house.*

• *Be sure all ornaments are attached securely to the tree and other decorations.*

As the holidays end

Even when Christmas is over, holiday hazards still exist.

• *Dispose of Christmas gift wrappings immediately.* Place them in a metal covered trash barrel or burn them as soon as possible.

• *Dispose of the Christmas tree.* If there is a specific way to dispose of a dried out tree in your neighborhood, follow the rules. Otherwise, burn your tree in a wide open area. Keep water or a fire extinguisher handy for dry trees burn with almost explosive violence.

• *Dispose of dried out decorations.*

If each one of the 50 million families in this country would assume the moral responsibility of being his brother's keeper, the Christmas holiday season would not be blighted with hundreds of fatalities and injuries to friends and family.●

TWO WISE YOUNG OWLS

Go 55

THESE two boys are charter members of the Junior Wise Owl Club of America, sponsored by the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness. They met the requirements of saving their sight from accident by wearing shatterproof safety glasses, the kind used in industry.

Robert Chapin

Edward L. Sinclair

Robert Chapin, 13 (left), of Mahwah, N. J., was hammering at a rock when a large fragment struck the left lens of the glasses and cracked it. The eye was not harmed.

Teenager Edward L. Sinclair of Greenwich, Conn., toppled down a flight of stairs, scraping his face roughly along the metal and stone stairway. His glasses were badly damaged, but his eyes were not injured. Both boys wore safety glasses at the insistence of their fathers.

Purpose of the club is to encourage teenagers who wear glasses to get shatterproof lenses. The extra cost of these is very small – only a few dollars and they can be put in many style frames.●

What are your chances of falling?

By taking this test you can get a good indication. Mark your answers, then see next page.

How do you rate on self-protection?

	YES	NO
1. Are you always alert for tripping hazards—toys, mops, brooms, etc.?	—	—
2. Do you light your way ahead of you into rooms and up or down stairs?	—	—
3. Do you carry only small loads up and down stairs so that you can see where you are going?	—	—
4. Do you always use the handrail on stairs?	—	—
5. Do you always use a solid ladder (or step stool) instead of a makeshift such as a pile of boxes or an unsteady chair?	—	—
6. Do you use ladders properly?	—	—
7. Do you store workshop materials, gardening tools, household equipment neatly?	—	—
8. Do you clean workshop, basement, and garage floors regularly of scraps and grease or oil?	—	—
9. Do you make it a point never to leave things on stairs?	—	—
10. Do you *promptly* repair broken stairways and handrails, loose floor boards, wobbly railings?	—	—

How's your housekeeping?

	YES	NO
1. Are all small rugs anchored, worn carpet or linoleum repaired?	—	—
2. Is floor wax used sparingly and polished thoroughly to reduce slipping?	—	—
3. Is there a safe hand hold or grab bar for bathtub or shower?	—	—
4. Do you have "a place for everything" so supplies, cleaning equipment, toys and the like can be put away?	—	—
5. Does everyone make a habit of putting things away when finished with them?	—	—
6. Do *all* stairs have handrails?	—	—
7. Do stairways have light switches top and bottom?	—	—
8. Are bedroom lamps or light switches located so no one has to move around in the dark?	—	—
9. Do you have night lights in children's rooms and in hall and bathroom?	—	—
10. Is furniture placed so it doesn't block normal walking areas?	—	—

Do you watch out for children?

	YES	NO
1. Do you check frequently to see that window screens, guards, storm sash are in good repair and firmly fastened?	—	—
2. Do you watch tots at play to prevent falls from porches, banisters, railings, etc.?	—	—
3. Do your youngsters know what is safe to climb and what is dangerous?	—	—
4. Are swings, slides, other play equipment in good repair?	—	—
5. Is play yard free of boards, nails, broken glass if kids do take a tumble?	—	—

Are you careful outdoors?

	YES	NO
1. Do you PROMPTLY remove ice and snow from walks and steps or use salt or cinders?	—	—
2. Are outside entrances, walks, and steps well-lighted?	—	—
3. Do you fill holes in yard and patch cracks and holes in walks at once?	—	—
4. Are ladders in good repair and long enough to reach any job?	—	—
5. Do you make it a rule always to get help for dangerous roof or ladder jobs?	—	—

If your score is:

25 to 30	Your chances of falling are low.
20 to 25	Better watch your step!
15 to 20	You're asking for a fall!
below 15	Send for the ambulance!

SCORE ONE POINT FOR EACH "YES" ANSWER

Total Score _____

Middle-aged fall like babies

Men and women between the ages of 25 and 44 are as likely to tumble down stairs as a baby or oldster, reported Dan Gowings, of the Pennsylvania Health Department, at the National Safety Council's recent annual convention in Chicago.

This fact, determined from accidents reported by the state's hospitals during 1959, dispelled the common theory that falls happen only to children under five and oldsters over 65. "Such persons are more apt to be killed if they fall, whereas the middle-aged are injured," he stated. "The fallacy is that safety workers have been basing prevention programs only on fall fatalities, concerning the young and old.

There is also a big injury problem among other age groups, especially the 25-44 year old woman."

Other facts gathered from the state's hospital reporting system were:

- Many more females than males (except those under 5) were treated at hospitals for fall injuries.
- Both sexes were more often hospitalized for falling *down* stairs, although a surprising number fell *up* stairs.
- People were injured on stairs more frequently during summer months—a time for outdoor activities. Children out of school might be expected to account for the increase, but this was not true.
- Persons over 64 were just as likely to fall on one day as another, although children under 5 seemed to fall mostly on certain days, namely Monday and Thursday. The study did not discover an explanation for this.

Photos not rec'd

by MAX ETTENBERG, M.D.

if you must fall-

HERE'S HOW

1. Author begins rolling fall by placing left hand in front of left foot, right hand, between legs.

IN Judo, the art of falling, known as UK-EMI, enables a person to fall without injuring himself. This technique of breaking a fall is important, not only to Judo participants, but to anyone who may slip on a rug or trip over a curbstone.

The "key" to breaking a fall, whether it is backward, forward or to either side, is in striking the ground, mat or floor with the entire arm and hand, with fingers together and palms facing downward. The blow should be timed so it occurs an instant before the body comes in contact with the surface.

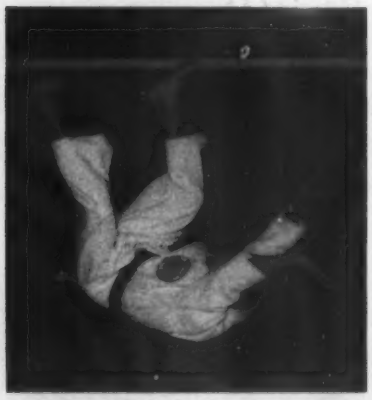
It may be argued that injury could be caused to arms and hands, but it is better to sustain minor injury to these parts and avoid serious injury to the skull, back, neck, chest or legs.

By repeatedly practicing on a mat or heavy rug for only 10 minutes daily, correct falling techniques will become automatic so you will instinctively protect yourself as you fall.

Your body, including arms, should be relaxed at all times as you slap the mat. The higher the fall, the harder you must strike the mat.

Dr. Ettenberg is president of the Boston Judo Club.

2. His right elbow bends, lowering body as he rolls over. Head is tucked in so it won't strike mat.



3. Body falls in a circle with elbow, upper arm, back of right shoulder contacting mat in succession.

4. Just as body completes circle, he strikes mat hard with left arm and hand to absorb impact of fall. Secret of falling safely from any direction is landing on arm, rather than head, back, or legs.

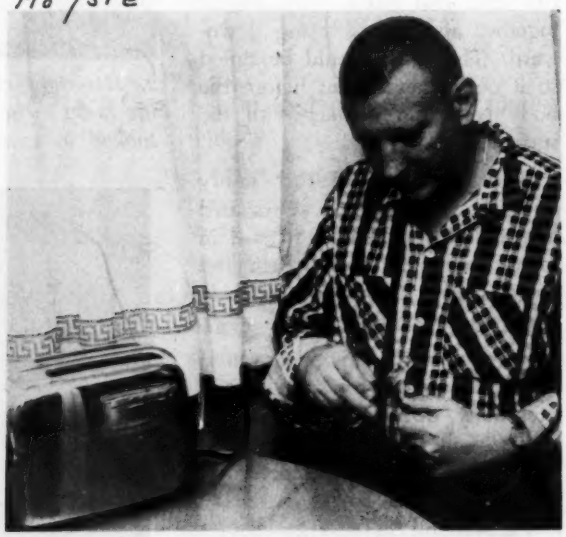
Quick, easy ways to

FALLPROOF YOUR HOME

Ho 751ss

You've got a Saturday afternoon free? Then why not try to make your home safe from falls — our country's number one hazard in the home. Here are tips that require only a few dollars and few hours.

Ho 751e



For only 10 cents you can buy gagdet that takes up slack in long cord that may be tripping hazard.

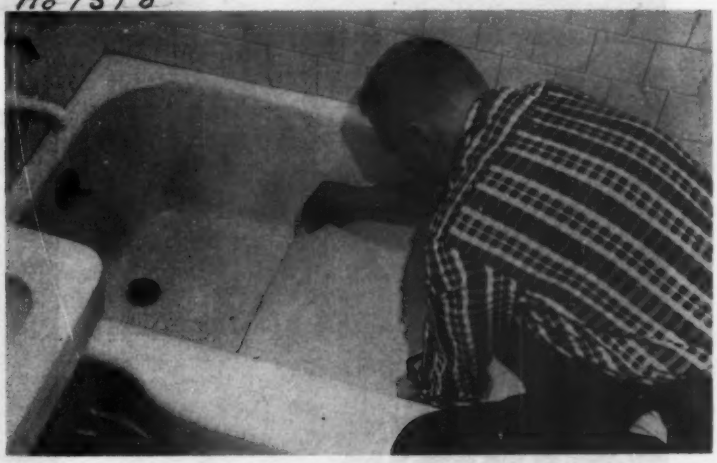
Glare from bare bulb at foot of stairway "blinds" person descending. Cover bulb with glass shade.

Ho 751e

Install night lights in bedrooms of children and oldsters who may fall in dark. This one plugs in socket, will operate constantly for five years on 15 cents worth of electricity.

751st

Ho 751b



It's easy to stick low cost, adhesive-back mat in bath tub. Top surface is slightly abrasive.

Mixing paint with sand is simple way to put rough, non-slip surface on basement or outdoor steps.

Ho 751

Ways To Fallproof Your Home

(Continued)

Give throw rugs a non-slip backing with special spray, foam rubber, abrasive strips, or other such items on the market.

Ho 751c

Ho 751 ss

Tack on rubber mats to prevent tripping on stairs. These mats now come in various styles and colors.

You can replace ordinary light switch covers with easy-to-find luminescent ones that glow in dark.

Readers Talk Back

Wrong Door

I want to clarify things a bit on an item "New Storm Over Storm Doors" in your last issue.

These accidents were not caused by storm doors but by sliding, wall-to-ceiling glass patio doors which open the whole front of a room to the outdoors.

At first these doors were used only in homes costing $50,000 and up. They were made of heavy, tempered plate glass that could withstand the assault of anything less than a Sherman tank. However, the price and the quality of the material used has been forced steadily downward. This past summer, neighborhood hardware stores were featuring such doors, made of low grade glass that would shatter into a million daggers at a touch, at prices as low as $59.50.

In warm weather, these doors are left open during most of the day and children run in and out at will. Comes twilight, mother closes the glass door and on the next pass one of the youngsters runs right through it. Visiting youngsters not familiar with the house are especially vulnerable.

AL McGEE, Public Safety Director
Seattle-King County Safety Council
Seattle, Wash.

Look for a complete, special report on the hazard of glass doors in the spring issue of HOME SAFETY REVIEW.

More on rabies

Liked your article on rabies in wild animals (fall, 1960). There's just one thing you forgot to mention. When my little boy was nipped by a puppy recently, the doctor told me to wash the wound immediately with soap and water. This is supposed to help wash away the animal's saliva which carries the rabies virus.

Mrs. Ben Stevens
Delaware, Ohio

You're right. Washing the wound is a "must" emergency treatment. —Editor.

Why not use "ash cans?"

We use a system of cigarette butt disposal in our household which might help others prevent fires such as the one which took the lives of three people in Boston early this morning.

All our ash trays are emptied into a covered canister which is kept in the kitchen. This is then emptied into a paper bag the following day and put out with the rubbish. In this way there is no danger of any smouldering, especially as it is always emptied before the ash trays are again emptied into it.

Perhaps some of the fire insurance companies could use this idea in fire prevention advertising and supply "ash cans" to their policy holders.

Mrs. William E. FitzGerald
Allston, Mass.

Hazardous hairpins

My interest in the fire hazard of hairpins and barrettes follows years of searching for these items manufactured of suitable and safe material.

Some women still wear long hair and I am one of these women. To properly keep hair pinned up we cannot use bobby pins or thin wire pins, and should have the larger bone hairpins. These are no longer available in bone (tortoise shell) except perhaps somewhere in France or Italy. Bone does not flame. The only hairpins I can find are made of highly flammable plastic.

At one time celluloid was discontinued in the manufacturing of combs because lives were lost. Why then do they now, with the knowledge of this danger, prepare for us such articles in another material, yet equally as hazardous? Today, with women smoking, and I am one of these women, even more care should be exercised.

Some manufacturers do coat their simulated bone articles with a flame resistant substance which in a short time of use—wears off.

For your personal satisfaction on this I am enclosing a bone comb. Put a match to it. Also enclosed is a hairpin, sold as bone but which is plastic. Watch it burn but do use caution!

Mrs. Maurice R. Franks
Winnetka, Ill.

The editor, accepting Mrs. Franks' invitation, touched a match flame to the comb and hairpin; the comb's teeth merely melted, but the hairpin flared up and burned vigorously until it was blown out.

HOME SAFETY PRODUCTS

Publication of product announcements in this section should not be construed as endorsement or approval by the National Safety Council.

Ho 751 ss

Stairway treads

Rubber safety stair treads are manufactured with two 1" friction strips in the face of the tread (black lines) to reduce danger of slipping or falling. They are advertised as especially useful in poorly lighted stairways. They are made in several sizes and are available in a range of 26 colors. Red, green or black may be inserted in the stair treads for blending or contrast.

Burke Rubber Co., Inc., P.O. Box 190, San Jose, Calif.

Ve 56 z

Non-ozone purifier

The Nautilus Air Purifier does not generate poisonous ozone into the room, according to the manufacturer. A fan pulls stale air in all four sides through a perforated metal screen. Dust, pollen, lint, smoke and odors are removed by a foam filter and four layers of activated charcoal —a device which allowed the crew of the U. S. atomic submarine Nautilus to remain submerged for months. The fresh air is discharged at the top.

The air purifier, which is 12 inches high, 10 inches square and weighs nine pounds, has a retail price of $49.95.

Major Industries, Inc., 505 N. LaSalle St., Chicago 10, Ill.

Sp 66 ws

Cover for pool

The Family Lifeguard is an aluminum platform swimming pool cover that can be regulated for any depth by fingertip control. The manufacturer states this heavy extruded platform is strong enough to support a truck and when not used as the bottom of a swimming or wading pool, it can be raised above water level and used for parties, dances, etc.

Safety Pool Lift, Inc., 25 West 21st Street, P.O. Box 1477, Hialeah, Fla.

Ho 751 b

Safety bath mats

Shur-Step Safety Mats are advertised as providing "stationary, safe, non-slip footing for tub and shower use." The bathtub mat is 17½" x 17½"; the shower stall mat, 23" x 23". Both are easily and permanently installed by an adhesive backing.

The mats contain no harmful gritty irritants and are sanitary—can be washed or scrubbed with any soap or detergent, says the manufacturer.

Price includes postage. Bathtub mat $2.00, shower stall mat $3.

Rehabilitation Products, Division of American Hospital Supply Corporation, General Offices in Evanston, Illinois.

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P.O.

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